

Remarks:

This amendment and these remarks are responsive to the non-final Office action dated March 17, 2005, and are being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected each of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or § 103(a) as being anticipated by, or obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,667,810 to Jeyachandran et al. ("Jeyachandran") alone or in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,822,754 to Shiohara ("Shiohara"). Applicant traverses the rejections, contending that rejected claims 1-20 are neither anticipated nor obvious.

Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicant would like to patent now, applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-16, 19 and 20. However, applicant reserves the right to prosecute any of these claims in a continuation application(s). Furthermore, applicant has presented remarks showing that claims 1-20 are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability covering all of the pending claims.

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I. Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected each of the pending claims as being anticipated by or obvious over Jeyachandran alone or in view of Shiohara. However, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Each of these independent claims and their dependent claims should be allowed at least for the reasons set forth below.

A. Claims 1-7

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Jeyachandran. Claim 1, as amended, is for a method for selecting a printing site:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a printing site for a print job based on a schedule, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a print job defining a start time;
 - receiving a schedule including time periods linked to locations;
 - comparing the start time with the time periods to identify a location having a linked time period corresponding to the start time;
 - and
 - selecting a printer that corresponds to the identified location.

Claim 1 is patentable over Jeyachandran because Jeyachandran does not teach or suggest, for example, "comparing the start time with time periods [of a schedule] to identify a location [of the schedule] corresponding to the start time."

Jeyachandran relates to changing, adding, and deleting a job, such as a print or transmission job, from a job list. Method and apparatus are disclosed for "setting a time for the printing of information, and for changing a print setup that has previously been designated."

In the Office action, the Examiner relied on disparate portions of Jeyachandran to piece together a rejection. For example, the Examiner asserted that Figure 50 and col. 37, lines 34-46, of Jeyachandran teach printing related to a schedule. Applicant suggests that these portions of Jeyachandran relate only to printing (or viewing) the schedule itself, and do not relate to comparing a start time of the print job with time periods of the schedule, as recited by claim 1. Furthermore, the Examiner also indicated that Figure 22 and col. 28, lines 4-7, of Jeyachandran teach selecting a printer that corresponds to an identified location. Jeyachandran states in the section cited that when "the request is "Print", at step S2203 the time and a place for printing are obtained." However, Jeyachandran does not disclose selecting a printer based on comparing a start time for a print job with time periods included in a schedule, as recited by claim 1. More generally, Jeyachandran does not disclose any explicit or implicit role for the contents of a schedule in selecting a printer. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2-7, which depend from claim 1, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

B. Claims 8-13

Claim 8 was rejected as being anticipated by Jeyachandran. Claim 8, as amended, is for a system for selecting a printing site:

8. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a printing site for a print job based on a schedule, comprising:
- a plurality of printers that correspond to locations linked to time periods in a schedule; and
 - a processor operatively linked to the plurality of printers and adapted to receive a print job that defines a start time, to compare the start time with the time periods to identify a location having a linked time period in the schedule corresponding to the start time, and to select a printer corresponding to the identified location.

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None of the cited references teach or suggest the invention of claim 8. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest a processor adapted "to compare the start time with the time periods to identify a location having a time period in the schedule corresponding to the start time," for the same general reasons as those described above in relation to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 8 should be allowed. Claims 9-13, which depend from claim 8, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 8.

C. Claims 14-20

Claim 14 was rejected as being anticipated by Jeyachandran. Claim 14, as amended, is for a program storage device:

14. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a processor, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for selecting a printing site for a print job based on a schedule, the method steps comprising:

- receiving a print job defining a start time;
- receiving a schedule including time periods linked to locations;
- comparing the start time with the time periods to identify a location having a linked time period corresponding to the start time;
- and
- selecting a printer that corresponds to the identified location.

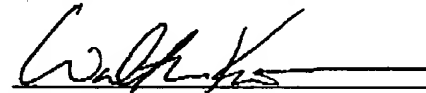
None of the cited references teach or suggest the invention of claim 14, at least for the same reasons as those described above for claim 1. Therefore, claim 14 should be allowed. Claims 15-20, which depend from claim 14, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

II. Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner S. Singh, Group Art Unit 2626, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on June 14, 2005.



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